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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5704
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0630
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 4890
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 000867

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/08/2028
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ENRG](#) [ECON](#) [GT](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT COLOM

REF: A. GUATEMALA 783
[1B.](#) GUATEMALA 821
[1C.](#) GUATEMALA 854
[1D.](#) GUATEMALA 759

Classified By: Ambassador James M. Derham for reasons 1.4 (b&d).
Summary -----

[11.](#) (C) During the Ambassador's July 8 farewell call on President Colom, Colom defended his decision to sign a PetroCaribe deal with Venezuela, Colom to Sign PetroCaribe Deal -----

[12.](#) (C) During his July 8 farewell call on President Alvaro Colom and Foreign Minister Haroldo Rodas, the Ambassador inquired about President C

[13.](#) (C) Foreign Minister Rodas added that the decision to join PetroCaribe was strictly economic. The GOV had pressed the GOG to join the Venez

[14.](#) (C) (Note: FRG Congresswoman Zury Rios separately told the Ambassador that she believed the PetroCaribe deal, which requires congressional

[15.](#) (C) President Colom lamented the recent deaths in a helicopter accident of Minister of Government Vinicio Gomez and Vice Minister Edgar Her

[16.](#) (C) The Ambassador asked about Environment Minister Luis Ferrate, noting that Ferrate's indiscreet public declarations at times gave potent
Menchu Inciting Indigenous Communities -----

[17.](#) (C) Regarding the investment climate, the Ambassador raised the June 21 incident in which indigenous protesters opposed to the construction

[18.](#) (C) Colom said Menchu was a "fabrication" of French anthropologist and author Elizabeth Burgos, who wrote the book, "I, Rigoberta Menchu,"

Comment -----

[19.](#) (C) President Colom took this opportunity to reiterate the high priority he places on good relations with the United States, and was concer